

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2025

Honorable Linda E. McMahon
Secretary of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon,

Last week, the Department of Education announced it was freezing money that is critical for the education of young children in school districts in Michigan. These federal funds, totaling \$6.8 billion, are used by school districts to support important K-12 programs and extracurricular activities, and the funds have historically been received by school districts by July 1 to ensure there is adequate time to plan before the beginning of the new school year. We have significant concerns about the impact this funding freeze, which includes over \$156 million for our state, will have on the lives of our most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable students in Michigan.

Despite having already been appropriated by Congress and enacted into law by President Trump when he signed the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (H.R.1968) on March 15, 2025, funds for this year are now being withheld pending a review. The uncertainty surrounding the unprecedented withholding of these funds will force districts to make budgetary adjustments that will lead to larger class sizes due to reductions in staff, restrict access to before- and after-school programs, and will impact services provided to students with disabilities, to name a few consequences.

In past years, the funds were sent to Michigan by July 1 to ensure the districts had ample time to properly finance and plan for the upcoming school year. With the funds being withheld, districts now face tremendous fiscal uncertainty, preventing them from being able to prepare for the programs, training, and services required for school educators and students alike. We, the undersigned members of the Michigan delegation, urge the Department of Education to release the appropriated funds to give school districts the certainty they need for the upcoming school year.

In Michigan, the withheld funds are expected to have a significant fiscal impact on school systems. The state relies on this funding to train teachers and administrators, provide high-quality digital learning opportunities for students living in rural communities, invest in assistive technology to educate students with disabilities, and support school-based mental health services, counseling, and systems and practices to prevent bullying and harassment. These robust programs are authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and are essential for students of all ages to supplement their learning and participate in to grow

thoughtful and well-rounded students. Withholding the funds will weaken the state of public education in our state and quality of learners for our future.

Specifically, the state depends on funding from each program as follows:

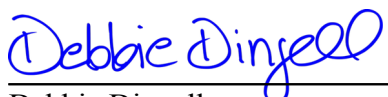
- More than \$63.7 million in Title II funds.
- More than \$38.3 million in Title IV-A funds.
- More than \$36.7 million Title IV-B funds.
- More than \$12.8 million in Title III funds.
- More than \$5.4 million in Title I-C funds.

Given the significant impact funding delays will have on school districts across America, we request a response to the following questions within 1 month of receipt of the letter:

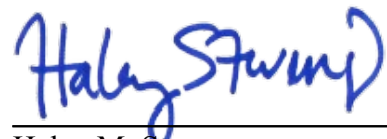
- Since the appropriated funds were enacted by President Trump and have been received by school districts by July 1st in previous years, when should states and school districts expect to receive these Congressionally appropriated funds?
- How are federally funded public school districts expected to support their students, teachers, and staff without the expected funding budget at the start of the 2025-2026 school year?
- What impacts do you expect funding delays to have on school districts, especially those in rural and underserved communities?
- What is the reason the Department of Education and/or the Office of Management and Budget chose to delay the funds?
- Are you abiding by federal regulations which mandate that federal agencies determine if a specific recipient's grant should be terminated, notify grant recipients of the termination, and provide each recipient with an opportunity to object through an appeals process?¹
 - If not, please explain the process that the State of Michigan must go through to ensure proper and expected federal funding for their appropriated sum.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and we look forward to receiving a response.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



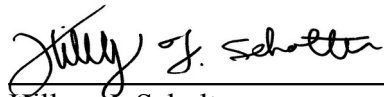
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



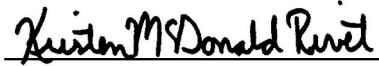
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

CC: Russell Vought, OMB Director